

SILESIA AS THE EMERALD OF EUROPE

Writing occasional poems, seventeenth century Henry Muhlpfort describes Silesia as a European Emerald. Learning from Zbigniew Kadłubek about the emerald in the world of precious stones, one would have to say that its power, its brightness, its value and worth, depend on the quantity of the different minerals and substances that create the emerald's existence. The value of an emerald increases when there are additional minerals or substances mixed into the stone. Therefore, the Silesia Emerald that is the mixture of many ethnic groups and cultures, demands a trustworthy opening to others and to differences. Only then will the Silesian identity be preserved.

Reference:

Szymik, Jerzy. *Na początku było Słowo* [At the Beginning There was a Word]. Katowice, 2004, pp 254 – 255. (Trans. by Franciszek Kurzaj and Patrycja Nosiadek).